No. 1

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 029 898 046 0

Hollinger Corp.
pH 8.5

C 2852
L44 9z

Fifteenth Annual Report of the Principal

ST. PAUL N. and I. SCHOOL, Lawrenceville, Va.

To the Trustees of the St. Paul Normal and Industrial School:

Gentlemen:—

It is with very great pleasure that I hand to you the fifteenth annual report of an institution which has been struggling through the past fifteen years to reach its present proportions. Its growth is considered by many to be without a parallel. I am fully aware of the fact that as the years go by the cares and responsibilities increase and the burden weighs much heavier along with its growth.

I have faith that the day is not very distant when individuals or societies will come to my relief and thus lighten the burden which I have been carrying through the whole life of the work. I might wish, for my own comfort, that I did not have to refer to the cares and burdens of the past, yet I cannot very well divorce them from my memory so long as wealthy Churchmen and friends of Negro education permit an institution of its proportions to struggle from day to day for its "daily bread." To be convinced of the work one has only to visit the school and spend a day or two, at least, in visiting its class rooms and its various industrial departments. This would give one who is not well versed in the work a fair knowledge of what is being done to better the condition of colored youth morally, spiritually, intellectually and industrially. I would most cordially urge the members of the Board to attend the regular meetings of the Board and to acquaint themselves with the workings of the Institution by visiting it from time to time. The authorities would like to see members of the Board at any time.

Our enrollment of students and workers runs over four hundred this session. Of the latter, teachers, instructors and other assistants number 35 this session, and yet this number is quite inadequate to the demand. But what are we going to do with reference to employing others while we have no assured support for those already employed? Among the additional helpers most needed at present are a lady principal, a first class bookkeeper, a second matron to care for the smaller boys, an instructor in agriculture, and a thoroughly competent teacher of pedagogy. As business men I presume you will say that it would be wisdom on our part to first pay what we owe those already employed and then make the effort to employ others. No one realizes more keenly than the principal the importance of first paying what we already owe; at the same time the additional help is needed in order to do our work even more satisfactorily. At the beginnig of the present year we were forced to dispense with the services of two instructors, thereby practically closing two departments which have been yielding considerable revenue to aid in meeting the current expenses of the School. Then, later the instructor in steam and electrical engineering asked for higher wages and because we could not see our way clear to raise his wages from $37.50 per month and board he felt called upon to resign, leaving the responsible task of caring for our engines, and electric light plant to an apprentice who was nearing the completion of his course. I am pleased to state that this young man has, since April 1st, lighted two buildings, increased lighting capacity in others, besides caring for the machinery in the ice factory etc. Notwithstanding the progress that has been made from year to year in our industrial department it is a great pity that we should be forced, by lack of funds to erect a Trades Building, to continue to operate our trades in a number of small shops scattered over the grounds. If a dozen or more of the trades were taught under one roof it would be far better both as to discipline and results. There are many features of interest in favor of having the trades taught in one building, and it is earnestly hoped that funds for a building may not very long be with-held from the Institution. For, those who are acquainted with the workings of an institution of its character know of the disadvantages under which trades are taught in poorly equipped buildings scattered about as ours are.

In this connection I wish to recommend a change in our present sytem of labor for our trade students. As it is, at present, our trade students work through the day and attend the evening classes for a period of three

Miscellaneous printed matter
TMP96-021744

years, then they are required to spend one year in the day school before they are awarded trade certificates. This has been done in order to give our students from the trade course a fair knowledge of books as well as the use of tools. The change which I wish to recommend is that trade and work students be so classified as to require all to attend the day classes half a day and the work classes for a like period. If this recommendation obtains the students will be equally divided into fore and afternoon classes. This change would in no way require a larger number of instructors in our trades departments but it would materially alter the cost of running the day school. It would require at least four additional teachers for the day school as well as other class rooms for the half-day students It is possible that this change cannot be made immediately, although the sooner it is made the better it will be for this class of students. This subject has been freely discussed in the business meetings at the school during the past session and more recently with Mr. David E. Cloyd, School visitor, of the General Education Board. Mr. Cloyd strongly advocates this change and I hope it will be possible to make it at no distant date. If such an arrangement is effected these students might complete their academic and trade courses in a period not exceeding five years. Such men and women would, on leaving the school, be far better equipped for the battle of life. I am pleased to report that the health of our students and instructors for the past session has been exceptionally good. It is also very gratifying to state that there have been fewer cases for dicipline, and every reason for believing that the moral standard of those in attendance is steadily improving. Greater care is exercised each year in admitting new students to the Institution. They are required to submit formal applications containing a brief account of themselves, their ability to settle their bills, their deportment and general standing in the school they last attended, together with a recommendation from their last teacher or employer and of their character and general standing in their own communities. This investigation into the character of future applicants will be even more rigid from year to year. It is true that some incorrigibles are sent to us on false recommendations, but these are given a reasonable time only, in which to amend their ways, and if advantage is not taken of the opportunity they are promptly expelled or dropped from the school.

It is very gratifying too, to note the decided improvement in the religious tone of our students. The interest manifested by them in their societies and the regular services of the Church is by far greater than in past years. I am sure the Board will rejoice with us at the school when they learn that the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of New York has decided to donate to the school a beautiful brick chapel in memory of the late Mrs. Francis Delafield. This chapel is to be Churchly in its design, and it will supply a long-felt need, for our present wood structure was erected in 1882, (shortly after I came to the field), when there was no special demand for a very large chapel. Our school alone has far outgrown a building of its proportions. This memorial chapel is to be sufficiently large to accommodate all of the students and the village congregation. [redacted] of this generous gift the Church trustees have decided to convey to the school its valuable property on conditions that they be given certain rights and privileges in the new chapel. This agreement was reached on April 9th in a meeting at the school composed of the Bishop of the Diocese, who is also president of the Board of Trustees of the School, the trustees of St. Paul's church and the principal and vice principal of the School. This concerted movement on the part of all mentioned above will mean a great deal toward the future permanent development of Church and religious life in the community of Lawrenceville.

In view of this handsome donation to the school I feel quite sure that the Board will place upon record, at this meeting, some fitting token of their appreciation of this gift.

A number of permanent improvements have been made on the school grounds since my last report, a year ago. The male teachers' home has been completed and occupied. The female teachers' home has been remodeled, enlarged and beautified by the addition of a new porch running

LC2852
.L44az
no. 1

across the entire front and side of the same. One of the boys' dormitories has been remodeled, enlarged, and two plain bath rooms added to the same. In addition to these improvements a good substantial building has been erected with modern improvements consisiting of a fine bake oven, modern kitchen, large dining hall, girls dormitory to accommodate about fifty girls, and a gymnasium and reading room for girls. This building will supply a long felt need in the Institution. It takes our students from their rather gloomy basement kitchen and dining rooms into most delightful airy and well lighted quarters for their meals. This is practically a three story building with plenty of room for all of its purposes; although not yet completed we are using it for special meetings as it (the dining hall) is the largest room of its kind in the town. When completed this building will be valued at $5000, while it has cost us very much less, in view of the fact that our material was all manufactured by us and the work done by apprentices, as well as the putting in of electric lights. This reminds me of the fact that our electric light plant affords us all the lights for our grounds and present buildings with a surplus supply for our new chapel and several other large buildings.

On the night of the 17th of June last the school suffered the loss of $2000 by a fire which completely destroyed its barn, crib, grain, farming implements, harnesses of all kinds and two fine horses. When the fire was discovered the building was too far gone to save anything. Hence a total loss. We have erected a temporary building to house our stock until such a time when we hope to see a modern barn and dairy built upon a more desirable site. These are among our needs and it is hoped that friends of the cause may see their way clear to donate the same. We also feel most keenly the need of a large dormitory for our boys and it is hoped, for the very best reasons, that funds may be forth-coming to build the same. We are also in very great need of a library, administration and model school buildings We have the bricks and lumber, and the mechanics to do the work and we ask our friends for only one-half of the amount necessary to erect any building itself. Looking to the health of our students, the safety and cleanliness of our buildings we must in the near future consider the matter of heating our buildings by hot water or some other safe and economical method. I have suggested hot water because we already have one large boiler at the electric light plant and with the aid of another I am assured of steam or hot water enough to heat several of our present buildings and the Memoral Chapel which is to be erected soon. In view of the provision in the new constitution which taxes industrial schools like the Hampton Institute and St. Paul's School we must continue to build up our own property and find outside markets as far as possible for our products. Our Dressmaking department has had orders from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and elsewhere. We have recently had an order from Massachusetts for a fine set of harness; we have also filled orders for full or partial sets of harness from other places. Our brick yard has shipped several car loads of bricks into adjoining counties. But for the new law which prevents us from selling articles manufactured by us we might have sold a hundred thousand or more in the community of Lawrenceville since the first of the year. Our clay is superior and we have an almost inexhaustible supply of the same At the close of last season, although late beginning, we had over a million and a half of good bricks. We are running the plant again this year at the mininum cost of operating the same, and we calculate upon about 2,000,000 bricks and a quantity of tiling. We operated this plant last year principally by out side hired labor, whereas this season we expect to use student labor.

In view of the fact that the amendment to the new constitution will tax lands held by Industrial Schools "not reasonably necessary", I wish to recommend the selling of certain detached town lots, five in number, two near the R. R. station and three in the eastern portion of the town, near the tobacco ware house, and a portion of our farm farthest removed from the School after the valuable timber thereon has been cut off. The timber on much of our land is even more valuable than the land it self, and I do not urge a hurry sale at a sacrifice to the school.

At the close of the past year our

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 029 898 046 0

Executive Committee decided not to rent any of our buildings or land this year as it was feared that by so doing the entire property of the School would be taxed. More recently we have been assured that certain parcels might be rented and that we would be required to pay the taxes on those parcels only. In view of this construction of the law I would recommend the renting of "Whittle Cottage", the property near St. Andrew's Church. A number of applications to rent this property have been made within the last ten days. A thousand dollars was given two years ago for another cottage on this same lot on conditions that the rent coming from the same should be used as the annual scholarships of two students from Rapidan, Va. We have delayed the erection of this cottage until a satisfactory interpretation was placed upon the amendment to the new constitution. In view of what we have already been told about this matter I think we might proceed to build the "Mercer Cottage" on the lot designated for the same.

It is with no little degree of pleasure that I refer to the meeting of the Church Commission which was held in "Whittle Cottage", St Paul's School, April 21st last. Never before, at any one time, has the school been so fortunate as to number so many distingushed gentlemen among its visitors. They encouraged us by their presence as well as by their strong endorsement of the work. One has only to read the minutes of their proceedings to see how strongly they endorsed this Institution. I asked them to make an annual appropration of $10,000 for salaries of all employees. It will be seen from their minutes that they have urged the general Church to contribute the same in-as-much as they did not have the money at their disposal to make such an appropriation. Since the meeting of the Commission we have been favored by visits from School visitors of the General and Southern Education Boards, who have remained on the grounds several days for the purpose of making a close investigation of the work that is being done in the class rooms, work shops and elsewhere on the grounds. These gentlemen have helped us by their counsel and friendly criticisms, which we insisted that they should make of what they had seen during their stay on our grounds. A cordial welcome ever awaits such helpful visitors I must not close this report before telling you of the recent gift by two aged maiden ladies of $2000 toward the permanent Endowment of this Institution. This sum brings our Endowment fund up to $3,500.

We are indebted to Mr. Geo. Foster Peabody for a beautiful and expensive map of the school campus which has been made by Messers Manning Brothers, Landscape architects, of Boston. When our grounds are laid out according to these plans St. Paul's will be the "garden spot" of the Black Belt of Virginia.

I have mentioned some of our needs and in closing this report I must not fail to urge the importance of using your influence to help in raising a much needed Endowment fund of$300,000. I am extremely anxious, too, to wipe out our indebtedness of $18,000 which has been in making for 15 years and not the debt of any one year. At the commencement, on the 22nd inst. we graduated a class of seventeen young men and young women, of whom two were graduates on conditions that they return to the School at the opening of the next session and prosecute a course of study prescribed by the faculty, the same being for a period of one term or four months, meanwhile their diplomas are withheld until these conditions are complied with. Some of our students came within a very small fraction of making the required averages, in scholarship and deportment, yet the standard or pass mark is seventy-five per cent., and the faculty voted firmly to graduate no student making less than the required per cent.

Although tempted to give you a brief account of the successful operation of a number of our industrial departments I must not occupy more of your time, but I beg that you visit the school and familiarize yourselves with its great and important mission.

In conclusion, I beg you to join me in bringing the needs of this worthy cause to the attention of friends of colored education.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES S. RUSSELL,
Principal.

Roanoke, Va. May 26, 1903.